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we are told is of the oppression of an Afrikaner platteland community, of Afrikaner despair, of the hopes, dreams and struggles of Afrikaners to rid themselves of the despotic yoke and regain their freedom.

An Afrikaner Nationalist might well look on this book as a sort of Afrikaans 1984. He would think back to the Great Trek, Slagters Nek, the Boer War. He would vow never to let all that happen again, and he would fight to preserve Afrikaner domination to the very end. Because he would never see himself in the skin of a Black man, he would not be persuaded by Schoeman that he was doing an injury to others. He would only be further convinced that there is no alternative to the present policies of the Nationalist Government if he wants to avoid being injured himself.

Only those Whites who can accept Blacks as equals will get Shoeman's message (if that is his message), and they are already converted. The White racist majority who regard Blacks as sub-human are probably immune, incapable of seeing the connection between the oppression of the Afrikaner which is depicted in the book and the oppression of the Blacks which surrounds them in real life.

P.M.

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